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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Russian Federation

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

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1 The Russian Federation reaffirms its commitment to the universal periodic review procedure, which provides a unique opportunity for the exchange of positive experience and developments in the field of the promotion and protection of human rights. The Russian Federation considers that the effectiveness of the review is predicated on the voluntary cooperation of States, depoliticized and constructive dialogue, support for countries' efforts in the protection of rights and such principles as objectiveness and universality.

2. State authorities of the Russian Federation have given careful consideration to the 309 recommendations received during the thirtieth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

3. The replies of the Russian Federation concerning its reactions to these recommendations appear below, grouped in thematic clusters. Clarification of the country's position on the recommendations concerned may be found in the annex to the present document.

4. Altogether, the Russian Federation accepts 91 recommendations. These include recommendations whose substance is supported by the Russian authorities and also recommendations that have already been put into effect or are currently being put into effect.

5. The Russian Federation partially accepts 34 recommendations. These comprise recommendations that cannot be fully supported owing to the fact that part of their content cannot be put into effect for a variety of objective reasons.

6. The Russian Federation does not accept 84 recommendations, the majority of which duplicate each other. The Russian authorities are unable to accept these recommendations because they are incompatible with current domestic legislation, law enforcement and the basic direction of State policy in the relevant areas or because they contain factually wrong or incorrect statements.

7. The Russian Federation categorically rejects the references in some of the recommendations to the "annexation" or "occupation" of Crimea. In 2014, the inhabitants of Crimea made a conscious choice to reunite with the Russian Federation in a free and democratic expression of their will. The Russian Federation reaffirms its commitment to fulfilling its international obligations over the whole territory of the country, including the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol, and its willingness to engage in dialogue with specialized international organizations on the question of maintaining human rights in the territory in accordance with procedures enabling the Russian Federation to meet its obligations in that regard. The Russian Federation is also prepared to accept a mission to Crimea from the relevant organizations, if it is conducted under an organization's mandate in accordance with the procedures applicable to a visit to the territory of the Russian Federation.

International obligations in the field of human rights

8. Seven recommendations were accepted (147.2, 147.4, 147.9, 147.15, 147.22, 147.24 and 147.25), one was partially accepted (147.12) and sixteen were not accepted (147.1, 147.3, 147.5–147.8, 147.10, 147.11, 147.13, 147.14, 147.16–147.20 and 147.23). While the Russian Federation is a party to the overwhelming majority of the comprehensive human rights treaties, it intends to continue exploring the possibility of further extending the scope of its international obligations on the promotion and protection of human rights. Decisions of this nature will continue to be taken on the basis of a thorough analysis of the existing situation, including the whole range of essential factors and conditions to be taken into account in becoming party to international agreements.

Human rights legislation and institutions

9. Thirteen recommendations were accepted (147.26, 147.37, 147.41, 147.43, 147.45, 147.46, 147.50, 147.146–147.148, 147.258, 147.260 and 147.277), one was partially accepted (147.235) and seven were not accepted (147.27, 147.28, 147.42, 147.47, 147.48, 147.51 and 147.172). Work is constantly being carried out in the Russian Federation to

improve the country's regulatory framework, including that governing the promotion and protection of human rights.

International cooperation on human rights

10. Eight recommendations were accepted (147.33–147.36, 147.38, 147.40, 147.101 and 147.214), two were partially accepted (147.32 and 147.307) and seven were not accepted (147.29-147.31, 147.39, 147.52, 147.308 and 147.309). The Russian Federation is committed to constructive cooperation on human rights conducted on a basis of equality, within the framework of the multilateral international structures. It also works closely with the human rights mechanisms in line with their mandates.

Equality and freedom from discrimination

11. Twenty-five recommendations were accepted (147.72, 147.73, 147.90, 147.92–147.98, 147.145, 147.220, 147.248, 147.249, 147.251-147.257, 147.259, 147.261, 147.264 and 147.265), five were partially accepted (147.89, 147.91, 147.124, 147.250 and 147.262) and nine were not accepted (147.68–147.70, 147.86, 147.88, 147.99, 147.100, 147.151 and 147.263). Any restriction of citizens' rights on the grounds of social status, race, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion or on any other grounds is prohibited in the Russian Federation. The principle of equal treatment lies at the heart of the provision of human rights. Any act of a discriminatory nature, regardless of the social or other groups by whom it is committed, is met with an appropriate response by the authorities and the law-enforcement agencies.

Promotion of tolerance. Combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and associated intolerance

12. Eleven recommendations were accepted (147.74, 147.75, 147.77, 147.79, 147.80–147.85 and 147.87) and three were not accepted (147.49, 147.76 and 147.78). The Russian Federation devotes particular attention to the development of intercountry and interfaith dialogue aimed at the promotion of mutual respect and understanding. Action to combat racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, including aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism, will continue to be taken at State level.

Protection of socially vulnerable groups

13. Fourteen recommendations were accepted (147.44, 147.215, 147.221–147.223, 147.266, 147.278, 147.284–147.289 and 147.292) and two recommendations were partially accepted (147.290 and 147.291). The protection of socially vulnerable groups continues to be a top priority under the country's social and economic policy, which is aimed at raising the standard of living of such groups and creating favourable conditions for their full development.

Right to life, liberty and security of person. Action against trafficking in persons

14. Ten recommendations were accepted (147.110, 147.111, 147.113, 147.129, 147.208–147.211, 147.213 and 147.237), three were partially accepted (147.109, 147.112 and 147.130) and seven were not accepted (147.106–147.108, 147.131, 147.132, 147.149 and 147.212). The Russian Federation is considering measures favouring the right to life, liberty and security of person as an essential component of the human rights system. The moratorium on the use of capital punishment in the country will remain in place.

Combating violence, including against women

15. Thirty-four recommendations were accepted (147.57, 147.58, 147.114, 147.116–147.120, 147.123, 147.125–147.128, 147.170, 147.171, 147.238–147.244, 147.246 and 147.247), four were partially accepted (147.56, 147.121, 147.122 and 147.245) and one was not accepted (147.115). The Russian Federation will continue to adopt effective measures to prevent violence, to respond to violent acts, including those directed against women, and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

Children's rights

16. Seventeen recommendations were accepted (147.232, 147.233, 147.267–147.276 and 147.279–147.283) and two were partially accepted (147.59 and 147.60). As a State party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Russian Federation devotes particular attention to the protection of mothers and children, the creation of favourable conditions for children's growth, intellectual development and education and the safeguarding of their mental and physical health.

Administration of justice and the judicial system

17. Eight recommendations were accepted (147.137–147.144). The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the question of ensuring access to justice and the functioning of a comprehensive, independent judicial system.

Prison system. Law-enforcement agencies

18. Four recommendations were accepted (147.133–147.135 and 147.173). The Russian Federation will continue its work on upgrading the prison system and improving conditions for persons under investigation or serving a sentence.

Civil and political rights, civil society institutions and the press

19. Twenty-three recommendations were accepted (147.71, 147.105, 147.152–147.155, 147.159, 147.162–147.164, 147.166, 147.167, 147.169, 147.175–147.177, 147.179, 147.182, 147.185, 147.197, 147.198, 147.206 and 147.207), thirteen were partially accepted (147.53, 147.150, 147.157, 147.161, 147.165, 147.180, 147.181, 147.183, 147.184, 147.188, 147.191, 147.194 and 147.199) and thirty-one were not accepted (147.54, 147.55, 147.61–147.67, 147.104, 147.136, 147.156, 147.158, 147.160, 147.168, 147.174, 147.178, 147.186, 147.187, 147.189, 147.190, 147.192, 147.193, 147.195, 147.196 and 147.200–147.205). The Russian Federation is committed to fulfilling its obligations on the promotion of civil and political rights, the creation of conditions for the development of civil society and cooperation by State structures with non-governmental organizations within the framework of existing national legislation.

Economic, social and cultural rights

20. Fifteen recommendations were accepted (147.102, 147.103, 147.216–147.219, 147.224–147.228, 147.230, 147.231, 147.234 and 147.236) and one was not accepted (147.229). As a socially orientated State, the Russian Federation will continue to increase its efforts to ensure that the people are in possession of their economic, social and cultural rights.

Rights of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples

21. Nine recommendations were accepted (147.293–147.296 and 147.299–147.303), one was partially accepted (147.298) and two were not accepted (147.21 and 147.297). The Russian Federation attaches great importance to ensuring the enjoyment of their rights by all peoples and ethnic groups living in its territory, including ethnic minorities and numerically small indigenous peoples.

Migrants' rights

22. Three recommendations were accepted (147.304–147.306). The Russian Federation will continue to implement measures aimed at the adaptation and integration of migrants.